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Ex-Aide Spent 14 Years In Military Intelligence

Joseph A. McChristian, Gen. William C. Westmoreland's intelligence chief in Vietnam from July 1965 until June 1967, is a 70-year-old West Point graduate who served 38 years in the Army before retiring as a major general in 1971.

As assistant chief of staff for intelligence in the United States Military Assistance Command, he supervised activities of all Army, Navy and Air Force intelligence personnel except those assigned to the Central Intelligence Agency.

A native of Chicago, he was brought up in Miami Beach and, after graduation from high school there in 1932, he enlisted in the Army in order to enter preparatory school for West Point.

When he received his second lieutenant's commission he went into the infantry, but most of his service in World War II was in armored divisions. Toward the end of the war he was chief of staff of the 10th Armored Division in the final assault on Germany.

His intelligence work began shortly

after V-E Day when he became assistant chief of staff for intelligence under Gen. George S. Patton in the Third Army. Two years later he went to Vienna as deputy director of intelligence for American forces in Austria.

After attending several advanced training centers, including the Armed Forces Staff College and the Army War College — he had previously attended the Command and General Staff School and had taught there — he spent four years as military attaché in Greece.

Promoted to brigadier general in 1963, he served as assistant chief of staff for intelligence at the Army's Pacific Command in Hawaii. Two years later he joined General Westmoreland's staff in Saigon.

When he left Vietnam in mid-1967, General McChristian was made commander of the Second Armored Division, in which he had served under General Patton. In 1968 he went to Washington as the Army's assistant chief of staff for intelligence, a post he held until his retirement in 1971.